

1 Peter 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Analysis

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. This magnificent verse unveils the Trinitarian nature of salvation. The "elect" (eklektois, ἐκλεκτοῖς) are chosen ones, selected by God for salvation. Their election is "according to" (kata, κατά) the foreknowledge (prognōsin, πρόγνωσιν) of God the Father—not mere foresight of future belief, but God's predetermined, loving choice establishing relationship before creation (cf. Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4-5).

Election occurs "through" (en, ἐν) sanctification by the Spirit—the Holy Spirit's work setting believers apart, both positionally (justification) and progressively (transformation). The purpose is twofold: "obedience" (hypakoēn, ὑπακοήν), indicating wholehearted submission to God's will, and "sprinkling of the blood" (rhantismon haimatos, ράντισμὸν αἵματος), alluding to Exodus 24:3-8 where covenant ratification involved blood sprinkled on the people. Christ's blood purifies conscience and seals the new covenant.

The greeting "grace and peace be multiplied" (plēthyntheiē, πληθυνθείη) is distinctively Christian, combining Greek (charis) and Hebrew (shalom) greetings while invoking abundant divine favor and reconciliation. Peter's theology presents election not as fatalistic determinism but as the Father's loving choice, the Spirit's

transforming work, and the Son's atoning sacrifice, producing grateful obedience in believers.

Historical Context

The concept of election would resonate deeply with Peter's readers, many of whom understood Israel's special status as God's chosen people. Now Peter applies this privileged position to the church—both Jewish and Gentile believers constitute the elect people of God. This revolutionary claim meant that God's promises to Israel find fulfillment in the multinational church united in Christ.

The language of "sprinkling of blood" deliberately echoes Old Testament covenant ceremonies, particularly the Sinai covenant (Exodus 24) and priestly ordinations (Exodus 29; Leviticus 8). First-century Jewish and Gentile converts would recognize this as affirming continuity between Old Testament types and New Testament realities. Christ is the ultimate sacrifice whose blood establishes the new covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

In the context of Roman persecution, the doctrine of divine election provided enormous comfort—their suffering occurred under God's sovereign purposes, not random chance. They were not abandoned victims but chosen vessels, foreknown by God before time, being sanctified through trials for eternal glory.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding election as God's loving, eternal choice before creation affect your assurance of salvation and joy in worship?
2. In what specific areas is the Holy Spirit currently sanctifying you, and how are you cooperating with His transforming work?

3. How does the Trinity's coordinated work in your salvation deepen your understanding of God and shape your prayer life?

Interlinear Text

κατὰ πρόγνωσιν θεοῦ πατρός ἐν ἀγιασμῷ
 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through sanctification
 G2596 G4268 G2316 G3962 G1722 G38

πνεύματος εἰς ὑπακοὴν καὶ ὁμαντισμὸν αἵματος Ἰησοῦ
 of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus
 G4151 G1519 G5218 G2532 G4473 G129 G2424

Χριστοῦ χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη πληθυνθείη
 Christ Grace unto you and peace be multiplied
 G5547 G5485 G5213 G2532 G1515 G4129

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (Spirit): But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Hebrews 12:24 (Blood): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

1 Peter 1:22 (Spirit): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Romans 11:2 (References God): God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

Acts 2:23 (References God): Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

2 Peter 1:2 (Grace): Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

Romans 16:26 (References God): But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Mark 13:27 (Parallel theme): And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Mark 13:20 (Parallel theme): And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

2 Timothy 2:10 (References Jesus): Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

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